



Do international surveys and censuses exhibit 'Dry Season' bias?

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Abstract:

This study aims to assess whether Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and population censuses in developing countries are predominantly conducted during drier months and are therefore subject to seasonal bias. We examined field implementation dates of 176 DHS conducted in 64 countries and enumeration dates of the latest population censuses in 59 of those countries. We compared dry versus wet season implementation rates, distinguishing seasons using mean precipitation estimates and Koppen climate classes for each country. For countries with seasonal precipitation climates, 23% of 39 censuses were conducted in the wet season compared with an expected 47%. In the same countries, 43.3% of DHS fieldwork took place in the wet season compared with an expected 45.4%. There was thus a slight tendency for DHS and a greater, statistically significant tendency for censuses to be implemented in drier months. Thus, the recent censuses analysed exhibit greater dry season bias than DHS when viewed internationally. Because past studies have identified seasonal patterns in diarrhoea incidence, water source, and malarial bednet use, care should be taken when comparing census and survey results for these variables internationally. Copyright (C) 2011 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

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Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;
surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Temperature, Unspecified Exposure

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding



Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status, Pregnant Women

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified